

PRESS RELEASE

£180,000 awarded to Our Big Picture in Grimsby NE Lincolnshire from Arts Council England's Capital Investment Programme

- Our Big Picture in Grimsby, NE Lincolnshire is to benefit from a share of £24.2 million through Arts Council England's Capital Investment Programme
- Our Big Picture will transform its listed building into a fully accessible and inclusive creative community space for arts and heritage.
- Awards from Arts Council England's Capital Investment Programme go towards building works and the purchase of equipment and other assets to improve access, seize on technological opportunities and reduce environmental impact.

8 May, 2024. Our Big Picture will receive £180,000 from Arts Council England, thanks to its Government-funded Capital Investment Programme, as announced today.

Our Big Picture is an arts and heritage charity, based in a grade 2 listed 300-year-old building on Bethlehem Street in the old medieval marketplace of Grimsby, NE Lincolnshire. This award will help Our Big Picture transform the venue into a unique and innovative arts and heritage hub - that honours its historical significance while fostering creativity and cultural enrichment in the town centre. It will become an inclusive and accessible venue for all, continuing to bring people together to be inspired by arts and heritage and improve lives. It will be environmentally 'fit for the future' by securing the Heritage and Arts Hub for future generations.

Our Big Picture Ltd

Elwood Cottages, 17-21 Bethlehem Street Grimsby, NE Lincolnshire DN31 1JN

www.ourbigpicture.co.uk

Registered Charity No **1199408**

The Capital Investment Programme supports the Arts Council's mission to ensure communities across the country have the infrastructure where creativity for everyone can thrive.

David McLeavy, Chair of Trustees, Our Big Picture: "We are hugely grateful to Arts Council England for this investment, which not only outlines their commitment to developing accessible and dynamic venues that are open to all but also shows their dedication to supporting the arts and culture sector in North East Lincolnshire. This capital investment marks a significant step in the transformation of Our Big Picture and its venue into becoming a leading arts and heritage hub both regionally and nationally".

Darren Henley, Chief Executive, Arts Council England said: "This infrastructure investment will help a whole range of different cultural organisations across England to flourish, increasing opportunities for people to enjoy creatively excellent cultural events close to where they live. It's particularly important that we're making this happen in communities where cultural investment has historically been low".

Lord Parkinson, Arts Minister at the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport said: "*Cultural venues enrich our lives, and it's vital that their infrastructure matches the excellence of the creative work that goes on inside them.*

"Our funding is helping both to create new venues and to adapt existing ones to make them more accessible, helping to deliver the Government's plan to make sure that everyone, no matter where they live or what their background, has access to excellent, life-changing cultural opportunities."

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For further information please contact:

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Notes to editors

Our Big Picture - *A heritage of creativity*

Background to building

Our Big Picture purchased the property with support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Towns Fund - North East Lincolnshire Council in May 2022 with planning permissions and listed building consent approved in August 2023. Match funding is now being sought to support the heritage conservation and repair of the fabric of the historic buildings and heritage skills development especially for young people.

Arts: Heritage: Community

Our Big Picture is an arts and heritage charity, based in a grade 2 listed building on Bethlehem Street in the old medieval marketplace of Grimsby, NE Lincolnshire.

Our goal is to establish ourselves as a key Arts and Heritage venue for future generations. We're focused on social and urban regeneration as a tool for creating community; which is to say we value not only the heritage of our built environment but also the quality of life of the people who live within it.

Our Community

Our community-centred initiatives foster inclusivity and empowerment through engaging diverse groups including artists and young people, as well as under-represented and minority groups, in a collaborative and nurturing environment.

We're all about bringing people together, building partnerships and improving lives.

This is not a top-down dictum, instead, we engage and co-create with under-served communities and provide services and programmes in response to their wants and needs.

Our physical space - on Bethlehem Street - is a historic venue which serves as a hub for social and artistic collaboration, breaking down barriers of isolation and creating a welcoming atmosphere for all.

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Our location:

At Our Big Picture (OBP), we make our home in an 18th century Grade 2 listed Georgian building on Bethlehem Street. Our recent archaeological project has unearthed evidence of occupation on the site dating back to the 14th century. So, we have Grimsby's heritage all around us.

Inspired by Grimsby's rich heritage - both as a fishing port and also stretching right back to our roots – we are in the process of transforming our space into a unique and innovative arts and heritage hub - that honours its historical significance while fostering creativity and cultural enrichment in the town centre.

Our Unique Mix:

We believe we offer a unique blend of arts and heritage, a proposition that sets us apart in our sector. This unique mix is rooted in our deep engagement with both visual art in its widest context and historical preservation, all based around our historic Grade 2 listed building.

This cocktail of art and heritage is not just about preserving the past but also creatively shaping the future. Our 'Heritage of the High Street' programme, for example, is an oral history project which has created material for artistic interpretation, through arts and heritage projects.

Facebook Our big picture Ltd

Twitter: @ourbigpicture #ourbigpicture

Web: www.ourbigpicture.co.uk

For more information or to arrange interviews please email or call

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About Arts Council England

Arts Council England is the national development agency for creativity and culture. We have set out our strategic vision in Let's Create that by 2030 we want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish and where everyone of us has access to a remarkable range of high-quality cultural experiences. From 2023 to 2026 we will invest over £467 million of public money from Government and an estimated £250 million from The National

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Lottery each year to help support the sector and to deliver this vision.

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When promoting fund activities on social media, the following hashtags

@ace_national on Twitter, @artscouncilofengland on Facebook or aceagrams on Instagram.

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